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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"That is asking for opinion."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"I only ask whether the educational authorities allow boys and girls to enact any kind of dramas."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Is it the information of the hon. Member that they are allowed to enact dramas?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—"With a view to collect funds, or for *tamash*, or for some reasons of their own which I cannot say, the boys and girls enact dramas. I want to know whether they are allowed to do like that, and whether the Government or the educational authorities do not take any notice of it or merely allow them to have their own choice."

Fisheries.

Alleged migration of fishes from the West Coast.

* 2377 *Q.*—Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the two most industrially important fishes—sardine and mackerel—have been migrating from the West Coast during the last two years;

(*b*) whether he has any scheme under preparation (1) to find out the causes of migration of the above fishes, (2) to locate the feeding and breeding places of these fishes; and

(*c*) whether he proposes by any means to relieve the fisherfolk of the West Coast from the famine and distress caused by the migration of the above fishes and, if so, to place on the table of this House copies of such proposals or schemes?

A.—(*a*) Large shoals of sardines and mackerel appear at irregular intervals on the West Coast. Mackerel was abundant in 1925 though scarce in the year previous. Sardine has been scarce during the last two years.

(*b*) (1) & (2) Yes.

(*c*) The Government are keeping a close watch on the situation which is at present not so serious as to justify their intervention.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"May I just ask the hon. the Minister for Development to tell me what his schemes are under (1) and (2) of clause (*b*) of this question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"An officer will soon be deputed to go and find out these things. As soon as his report is received we will do the needful."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—"May I just ask the hon. the Minister for Development whether he is aware that the hon. the Finance Member in answering a certain question of mine clearly indicated that the trawler intended for deep-sea fishing cannot be utilized for these purposes?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"When it is not engaged in deep-sea fishing, it can be used for other purposes."

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Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" May I just ask him whether the Research Institute at West Hill is purely intended for the purpose of making scientific experiments to find out the breeding places of fishes which have migrated from the coast?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" With reference to clause (c), may I ask whether the hon. Minister is aware that one of the hon. Judges of the High Court of Madras, one District Judge of North Malabar, one District Medical Officer of Malabar, some English clergymen, the President of the District Board of Malabar, and Chairmen of every so many municipalities in Malabar have signed a memorandum admitting the migration of fishes from the West Coast and under the circumstances will not his intervention will be justified?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" It is a fact that those gentlemen have signed some such memorandum. But the fact of it is that what they intended doing was some sort of philanthropic work. From the information we have from the Collector we find that although the situation requires help of a philanthropic nature, it does not require the taking up of famine relief operation."

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" Am I to presume that the Collector is of opinion that there is no necessity for departmental intervention for giving relief to the distressed people in the West Coast?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" There is no necessity for taking any action as contemplated in the Famine Code."

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" May I know how he will account for his subordinates being on the committee specially organized to collect funds for relieving the distress caused to the fisherfolk when I am told that his subordinates are sending official reports saying that there is practically no distress?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" There is difference between action of a philanthropic kind and otherwise."

Rao Sahib P. V. Gopalan :—" Am I to understand that his subordinates have got the amorphous capacity? In one capacity they say that there is distress and in another capacity they say that there is no distress."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" That is a matter of opinion."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" I am quite surprised. I want to know whether the Government have no philanthropic obligations to the people at all?"

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Forests.

Steps to abate ravages of fields by wild animals in South Kanara.

2378 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to place before the House the reply given by Government on 10th April 1926 to my letter forwarding the